

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, November 11. 1710.

After all I have said of our Governours turning Whigs;— There remains one ill-natur'd Querist to be answer'd, who comes in Raving, and indeed, sits by me while I am now Writing; D——n your wild Notions, says he, of turning Whigs; there's not one of our Friends, but what abhors the Name of a Whig; I'd as soon Pistol my self, as be a Whig; if my Wife was brought to Bed of a Child, and I was sure it would be a Whig, I would drown it, as we do the Kittens; they are the Scum, the Plague, the Filth of the Nation; they are the Men that have brought about all this Mischief,

and now they are down, and we are Mad if we do not keep them down. —

Hold, Sir, said I, I am just going to Write, the *Review* shall put down your wife Speech, in Words at length——
Ay, and Wellcome, says he, the Whigs are all Rogues, Villains, damn'd Rogues; I hope to see them all pull'd down very quickly.

All pull'd down, said I, *What, Queen and all?*——No, no, says *my Fury*, the Queen is come off of you, the Queen is on our Side now—— And here lies all the Weight of the Question; so I went on with him—— Come, tell me, said I, what

is the Queen come off from ? — Is her Majesty come off from the Revolution ? — *Ay, ay, says he, your D——d Revolution is all you can talk of; I tell you, the Queen is on our Side, her Majesty Reigns by Hereditary Right — and was made Queen, by Vertue of the Abdication — Well, say I, but why did King James Abdicate ? — Was it by Force, or Consent ? — It was a Voluntary Demission, says my Tory, because he would not submit to Regulations by a Parliament, which it was his Principle, and is mine too, that a King is not Subjected to, nor ought to be restrain'd by, being himself God's Vicegerent, and accountable to none — Well, Sir, quoth the Reviewer, we will leave that Dispute now; the Question before us, is, Whether the Revolution was a FORCE upon King James, or no ? Whether the Prince of Orange Resisted him, or no ? And whether he Abdicated BY FORCE, or no ? For upon this Argument, mighty Stirs have been made; Ay, ay, says my Tory, prove it if you can.*

Now my Proof is from King James himself; and I think, I cannot have a better Voucher — See the King's Letter to the Earl of Feversham, upon his Majesty's leaving Whitehall, Decemb. 10. 1688. —

*" Things being come to that Extremity,
 " That I HAVE BEEN FORC'D
 " (mark the Word) to send away the
 " Queen, and my Son the Prince, that
 " they might not fall into my Enemies
 " Hands, which they must have done,
 " if they had staid; I AM OBLIG'D
 " (Mark it again) to do the same
 " Thing — And to endeavour to secure
 " my Self the best I can.*

These are the King's own Words, sign'd by his own Hand, and the rest of the Letter, is full of Expressions of the same kind: What a Face have our High-Flyers to insit upon it, that the Prince of Orange did not Resist, and that the Revolution was not Founded on Resistance? Here's the Testimony of their own King against them; he is Forc'd, and he is Oblig'd, to save himself;

if Force is not Resistance, then indeed we have no more to say: I shall hereafter, speak a Word or two, to that little Resistance, which we do not love to hear of, as the Boyn, which will, I think, make out a Simily, which a certain Gentleman took great Distast at, *I think without any Cause, of the dry and wet Martyrdom.*

But to go on with our Point.

My Tory will have it, that the Queen is come off from our Side; and to make it out, is driven to the Necessity of acknowledging, that he means, the Queen is come off from the Revolution; an Absurdity, which is too gross to need any Reply; but asserting a Fundamental, will put an end to this, and let any Man Answer it.

Her Majesty is Queen of Great Britain, &c. by Vertue of the Limitations of the Descent to the Crown, made, provided, and Enacted by Parliament, in the Act of Settlement, 1 Will. & Mar. cap. 6.

How this is Parliamentary, and how Hereditary too, I have already fully prov'd, and need make no Digression — And that her Majesty is Queen, by Vertue of those Limitations, requires no other Proof, than the Acts themselves; let us see it deny'd if they can.

If then her Majesty is Queen, by Vertue of this Act of Parliament, declaring the Inheritance in Tail, to her Majesty; whenever that Parliamentary Limitation, or Settlement, appears Illegal, and her Majesty ceases to Claim by it, the Revolution dies; but till that, her Majesty is our Revolution-Queen — and all that serve her Majesty in the Administration, must serve her as such, must adhere to the Revolution, Support the subsequent Laws made in Consequence of it, such as the Protestant Succession, which is another Specimen of Parliamentary Limitation, and the Union which is a third.

The Inference from these Things, however ungrateful to the Gentlemen, is, That the Queen, the Settlement, and the Administration, is all Whig, it can be no other; to say the Queen is come off from the Whigs,

is to say her Majesty will renounce the Revolution, reverse the Settlement of the Crown, overthrow the Succession, and admit to the Pretender.

This may answer any Man, who objects against my Notion of the New Ministry turning Whigs. — *Why, what can they be else? Can they Act one Thing, take one Step, or turn once round in the Affair of Government, without it? — I affirm, it is impossible.*

If then there is among them one *High-Flyer*, who being a Mad, Raging, Irreconcilable Enemy to *Whiggism*, resolves to continue firm to his Old Lunacy — *Let him do so, say I, why, because then I know he must turn out again; the Reason is plain, for if he will not Act upon a Revolution Foundation, he cannot be a Minister of State.*

And now this will shew it self in a particular manner, agreeable to what *Whiggism* itself within this two or three Years, was oblig'd to do — And which, some Men among us, expos'd their Honesty, as well as Policy very much, in their uneasiness about.

About five Years ago, there was a turn at Court something like this, and the looking into which, will a little inform us what will be now — The Mad, High Gentlemen, who were then in Office, thinking to Administer a Government built on *Whig Settlements, by Tory Measures*, run themselves upon the Rocks of the Constitution, and *Shipwreck their whole Scheme* — What was the Consequence? They were, like *Jonah*, cast out of the Ship, that she might not Perish in the Storm; they were no sooner thrown out, but the wiser Pilots who came in, convinc'd of the Necessity of it, tho' they were not all Original, Native *Whigs*, by Principle, and Inclination, yet they became sincere thorough Whigs, by Office, and continu'd so to the last; as such

they are now Dismiss'd, and laid aside; and new ones put in, which you say are not so — And our People are Foolish enough to flatter themselves, *they will not be so — Of which presently.*

As soon as these Gentlemen, *I have just mention'd*, came to Act, and by the Consequence of their Administration, Acted the *Whig*; truly some People that did not like their Conversion, would not allow it to be hearty, but only an outside, and done to preserve their Places; and from hence, another hateful, and indeed foolish Distinction, crept in among us, of *Old Whig* and *New Whig*, a Thing which sinks now, in the General Declension of both, just as the early Differences of Bishop *Ridley*, and Bishop *Hooper*, sunk in the Fire and Faggot of Queen *Mary*, and the Authors of it are now at Leisure, to read their Sin, in their Punishment; for to much of that, we owe much of *this*, of which by itself.

Now, Gentlemen, here's the very counterpart of this, exactly acting over again; here's another Court-Turn, and you say, these People are coming in upon us, who have always profess'd *High-Flying Principles* — Well, can they Act upon the Foot of these Principles in the Administration? *I affirm they cannot — without Rebellion, and Treason —* Now you will not have them call'd Whigs, What then must they be call'd? I am certain, when they come to Act, their own Party will not own them to be right Tories — So they will most naturally fall into the same Distinction the Whigs did, and call one another *Old Tory*, and *Modern Tory*, and much good do them with the Distinction.

I shall gradually bring this Case down, to our Affair of our Elections, which is now in Hand, and in which I find, we are running Headlong into Heat, Passion, Fire and Fury — God deliver us from the Ruin, such Tempers usually bring upon the Nations, that are visited with them.

A D V E R.

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THE Author of this Paper having receiv'd many importunate Letters a long time, pressing him to go on with his so often promis'd Discourses upon Trade—Gives this Notice.

That having often Essay'd to carry on a continu'd Discourse upon Trade in this Paper, but been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the Times, an unhappiness the Author did not foresee when this Work was undertaken—

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This Work is propos'd to be Subscrib'd by such Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it, 'till it may be able to support it self; in which the Author hopes he may please you all, and may have an opportunity to lay down the unpleasant Subject of the Nation's Divisions; a Thing he has long desir'd to do.

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Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Boy in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.